

From: C. R. Brade
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/17/01 12:40am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I don't see how this settlement changes anything. Microsoft (MS) already has a foundation (started after the suit, I think) that donates money that K-12 schools can apply to, how does expanding the visibility of such PR do anything to change MS. Microsoft used to have a lower market share than Borland for the then popular C++ Programming Language software; MS didn't have a better product and couldn't get Borland (Enprise(sp.??)) to sell their company to MS, so they took over half of Borland's top programming staff (wages that no one else could match). Borland never did get anywhere near their marketshare in programming language software back. Sure MS might of had to pay Borland (briefly changed its name) a fine, but I am sure MS has more than made of the difference. Why should MS ever deal ethically with anyone? If they get caught they may pay a fine, but the fine won't be enough to make them suffer any long term loss in any area.

Everyone knows that the Apple Computer Company's strategy that helped them get a foothold in the K-12 schools was its heavy rebate program for schools to buy one of their computers. What this settlement would do is basically give MS the same strategy to slowly remove Apple's presence. Why not require that the computer's not run MS software? Money not used can grow interest deferred and be used for improving technical training in non-Microsoft equipment. The Red Hat people said they would provide free Red Hat Linux OS's with technical support for the schools MS gives equipment to. There is a glut of MS certified people, why not train some disadvantaged children in high school/ jr. high in Linux administration. There are probably many inner city or Appalachian Mountain children who would jump at the chance. Companies in economically disadvantaged areas would then have someone to hire who knows how to run a server with very low site license fees and has a lower number of security issues requiring patches with each new release. This could help a new company compete and grow -- helping a company grow and employ more tech. savvy employees which could help the area no longer be an economically disadvantaged area. Note Linux has in some cases been put on computers and have them run compatible applications that choke on MS OS & software.

If not why not require MS if it takes more than 10% (when agreed upon market share rate) of Apple's K-12 OS share in K-12 schools during and 2 years after of this billion dollar K-12 assistance phase; require that MS pay an additional one billion (at one year anniversary date of first payment) plus what ever percent of share loss over 10% times 100 billion until either MS for over a year doesn't exceed its when agreed upon market share rate or holds less than 65% of the market share in all of the following: PC OS's, word-processing packages [note the large share they took from with bundling (WordPerfect/ Lotus 1-2-3)], programming language software, and internet browsers.

Maybe it is true that money talks and big corporations never have to apologize as long as they have the money. I hope I am wrong, but the case of the intermittent windshield wiper patent comes to mind.

-C.R. Brade
twiggy139@home.com
aj7301@wayne.edu